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neighbour: The rest of the paintings it would be vain to describe. We went through the house in about an hour and a half, came out at the great hall, admired the prospect, for a few minutes, and then departed. In general, the woods are too thick, and hide the prospect in many places. The ash and oak grow spontaneously every where. We saw some very remarkable laurels, grown quite into large timber. Every kind of tree or shrub that money or taste could procure is found here. We saw but a small part of the improvements, as it would take a week fully to survey them all.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ON BOOK-CLUBS.

**H**APPENING lately to be in Colerain, I stepped into a bookseller's-shop, and, having seen two others also respectably furnished, I inquired how Colerain could support so many shops in that line. I was answered, that in almost every parish in the neighbourhood they had a book-club, by which means a considerable demand was occasioned for books. I thought the practice was so worthy of commendation, and afforded so pleasing a trait in the character of the inhabitants of that district, that I am disposed to recommend it for adoption in other places.

A taste for reading produces many beneficial effects, and affords a profitable mode of occupying leisure. If the young people of the middle classes, sons of farmers, mechanics, &c. spent their evenings in this manner, they would escape many evils attendant on going to public-houses, and frequenting clubs of free-masons, orange-lobges, &c., a practice unhappily too prevalent in many places. Young women also would find great resources in acqui-

ring knowledge, by reading suitable books, if they rose in their views to something higher than the usual trash of novels.\* I fear, when they do read, they confine themselves too generally to light, unsubstantial, and misleading compositions. This is an abuse of a practice highly excellent in itself. Books conveying solid improvement would, by habit, become more agreeable, and they are more instructive than the light reading, the whipt syllabub of novels. K.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ALCORNOQUE, BY J. LEYMERIE, M.D. FORMERLY PRINCIPAL PHYSICIAN OF THE SOUTH HOSPITAL, PARIS, AND PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY.

(Continued from page 111.)

**I**T is not possible to doubt the tonic quality of the alcornoque in an eminent degree. As this property has never been met with directly but in extractoresinous bitters, and in bitters not resinous, which are combined with tannin. The former strengthen and communicate their tonic qualities more slowly than the latter, but their good effects are of a longer duration and more certain. They destroy the obstructions which are unfortunately too often produced by the latter. These latter have often had violent purgative effects. It does not appear that the alcornoque ever operated in this way, which makes it a valuable medicine for persons afflicted in a certain degree with pulmonary consumptions.

All those who had recourse to the

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\* "The Cottagers of Glenburnie;—by Elizabeth Hamilton," may be read with profit by such societies. It abounds with instructive remarks, tending to promote the useful virtues of cleanliness and good management.